

Dinner of Secretary and Mrs. Knox To Mr. and Mrs. Taft Sets Precedent

Members of Diplomatic Corps All Guests—Ban on New Dances.

An interesting precedent was established by the Secretary of State and Mrs. Knox Thursday evening, when they invited to their home for dinner, not only the members of the Diplomatic Corps, but also the President and Mrs. Taft at dinner, the first in the annual series given by Cabinet members for the Chief Executive.

This was somewhat of an innovation, as heretofore the members of the Diplomatic Corps have met the President at dinner only at the annual diplomatic dinner at the White House.

There is an unwritten law that the President and the First Lady of the land shall not accept general invitations. They may dine formally only with the Vice President and at the homes of the Cabinet ministers, and never at an embassy or legation, as these premises are extrajurisdictional. Occasionally they have been known to dine informally with intimate friends, but these occasions have been few and entirely unofficial.

Until the Roosevelt Administration, there also was an unwritten law that invitations to the Cabinet dinners to the President should never go outside the President's official family circle. This made the functions somewhat monotonous affairs, and during the last regime the ban on outsiders was raised somewhat at the instigation of Mr. Taft's predecessor.

Thus, in recent years, the President has found among the guests invited to meet him at these dinners in his honor at the home of his Cabinet ministers a more heterogeneous company, comprising, in addition to distinguished statesmen, men and women of note in the world of science and art, and oftentimes guests who have crossed the continent for the occasion.

Now, since the Secretary of State and Mrs. Knox have broken the ice, and invited members of the Diplomatic Corps, these representatives of foreign sovereigns and governments will no doubt be given opportunity to meet the President at dinner at other similar occasions.

Tuesday evening the first evening function of state, the reception in honor of the Diplomatic Corps, will take place at the White House. Invitations for this reception, always the most brilliant of the series, went out immediately after the New Year reception Monday.

The death of Rear Admiral "Fighting Bob" Evans last week has cast a shadow of gloom over the festivities of the season, particularly over the Charity Ball tomorrow night, of which the Admiral was the guest of honor. Mrs. Evans, who was in charge of arrangements, and has been one of the most enthusiastic promoters of the ball, was in the city when she learned of the death of her husband. Her place will be taken by Mrs. Horace Westcott, whom she has designated as her successor.

The President and Mrs. Taft are expected to occupy the main box in the tier erected along the wall for those who wish to see the spectators of the throng on the ballroom floor.

Another dance tomorrow evening will be the first meeting of the Dancing Club at the Playhouse since the holiday season and many who will attend there earlier in the evening, will look in on the Charity Ball for a few moments later.

Rather a positive edict has gone forth from the mothers of the younger dancing contingent, which is in its element this season with a dance every night, forbidding in no uncertain tones, the popular new dances of the Junior Republic, which have been the cause of two so-called scandalous grand dames in exclusive circles of the National Capital.

A committee of young resident bachelors in the army, navy, and Marine Corps, headed by Major Horton, have for the last several years collectively returned their social obligations each season with a dinner dance at the Chevy Chase Club to the matrons and gals of Washington society, to whom they are indebted. Last night their party was a delightful and successful affair despite the intense cold.

Lenten charity affairs already are under discussion, and one for which plans are now being made is a large kitchen for the benefit of the Junior Republic, in which 200 of the younger set will participate. It will be given in March. The committee for this year planned a series of national dances, each complete in itself, so that the couples may rehearse privately before the public of the entire program. They are to be dances of all nations, headed by a chaperone and the wives of the ambassadors and ministers in the corps are to be invited to act in such capacity for the dancers representing their countries.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlow entertained at dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harlow entertained a small group of friends at dinner last night for their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Vechten Olcott, of New York, who will return to their home tomorrow, after a brief visit in the Capital.

Mrs. Norman Williams had a small company dining with her last night.

Congressman and Mrs. Stanley Hubert entertained at dinner last night at the home of Mrs. J. T. Castleman, of Louisville, Ky., who will arrive in Washington tomorrow.

Former Senator and Mrs. Charles J. Dent, of Maryland, who have been closed their estate there for the winter, and will spend the season at the New Willard.

At the marriage of Miss Mary Carlisle and Walter Bruce Howe, which took place at the home of the bride's mother, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. W. Blake, the bride had as her only attendant her cousin, Miss Pearson, daughter of Richmond, Pa., son, former American minister to Greece and Persia.

A breakfast will follow after the ceremony, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Calderon Carlisle, on I street.

Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are hosts at luncheon.

Mr. and Mrs. Edson Bradley entertained informally at luncheon today at the Chevy Chase Club for their house guest, Miss Marion Bourne, of New York, who will be with them until Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leiter are entertaining at a large dinner of thirty-six covers tonight at their residence, on Dupont circle, asking their guests to meet them at the French Vanderbilt of New York, who arrived in Washington today for a few days' visit to Mrs. Reynolds Hitt. After the dinner there will be music, with Edwin Morris at the piano.

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Fools of Society.

Bryce, wife of the British ambassador, at the embassy, now is with Senator Dupont and his daughter, Mrs. Crowninshield. She will spend the winter here, having taken an apartment at the Dupont.

Mrs. Pomeroy, wife of Senator Pomeroy, will go over to New York in a day or two for a week's visit to Senator Pomeroy's cousin, Mrs. John Dearing Haney, who has planned a series of festivities in Mrs. Pomeroy's honor at her home on Riverside drive. Senator and Mrs. Pomeroy, who spent Christmas at their home in Canton, returned to Washington Wednesday, and are established at the Highlands for the season.

Miss Kathleen Eustice Weston, daughter of Maj. Gen. John Weston, U. S. A., retired, and Mrs. Weston, has forsaken society for the stage, and will appear in Washington this week in "Baron Trenck."

During her stay in the Capital she will be the guest of Miss Ethel Norris, at 1627 Sixteenth street.

Miss Weston has many friends in Washington having formerly resided here for a number of years during her father's detail as commissary general at the War Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Ellis have returned to Washington, after spending the Christmas holidays with relatives at their home in Covington, Ky. They spent New Year Day in Columbus, on their way home, and were guests at the Columbus Club for the day, and later at a theater party and supper.

Mrs. William F. Draper and Miss Draper were hosts at dinner last night in honor of Miss Helen Taft. Other guests were Miss Harriet Anderson, the Postmaster General, Frank H. Hitchcock, Senator Lippitt, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Wolcott Tuckerman, Miss Elsie Aldrich, Miss Laura Merriam, Miss Martha Bowers, Miss Margaret Cullen, Miss Mary McAuley, Miss Sophie Johnston, Miss Letta Montgomery, Congressman Butler Ames, Congressman Cullen, John Campbell White, Charles C. Glover, Jr., Dr. Carr D. Grayson, U. S. N., Benjamin Cable, Francis Biddle, Henry Du Pont, and Samuel Eliot.

Miss Sara Bradley, of Boston, who has been the guest of her cousin, Mrs. Draper, was also present.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leiter are entertaining at a large dinner of thirty-six covers tonight at their residence, on Dupont circle, asking their guests to meet them at the French Vanderbilt of New York, who arrived in Washington today for a few days' visit to Mrs. Reynolds Hitt. After the dinner there will be music, with Edwin Morris at the piano.

Wednesday evening Mrs. L. Z. Leiter will be hosting at dinner in honor of the American Ambassador to Great Britain and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, and Saturday she will entertain at dinner again, complimentary to the new Russian Ambassador and Mme. Bakmeteff.

Henry Jefferson Porter, Jr., of Birmingham, Ala., whose marriage to Miss Adeline Culp takes place Wednesday, January 12, has selected for his attendants Preston Callum, of Washington, as best man, and David Hendrick, Dr. C. H. Hamond, Jerome Graham, and Norris McLean, all of Washington; John Porter, his brother, of Birmingham, and Willie Westmoreland, of Atlanta, Ga., as ushers.

Col. and Mrs. Thomas W. Symons, U. S. A., will entertain at dinner tonight in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Meek, of Buffalo, N. Y.

Mrs. Archibald Gracie will entertain a few friends informally at tea this afternoon.

Mrs. Edson Bradley received the guests for the committee at the dinner dance of the Chevy Chase Club last night, given by several resident bachelors from army, navy, and Marine Corps circles. Major Horton, U. S. A., was president, and the others were Lieut. Byrns A. Long, U. S. N.; Capt. Graham I. Johnson, U. S. A.; Lieut. Comdr. C. W. Miller, U. S. N.; Lieut. J. H. Gullick, U. S. N.; Lieut. Frederick de C. Faust, Charles T. Wilson, Major Lawler, and William T. Bingham. There were about 100 dancing.

Mrs. John Allen Dougherty is at the New Willard for the season.

Mrs. Samuel Pannil Ficklen has cards out for a tea Tuesday afternoon, January 16, from 7 to 9 o'clock at her residence, 1761 Columbia road.

Lieut. Ralph S. Meyer, U. S. M. C., lately attached to the barracks in Washington, has been appointed attaché of the American embassy at Tokyo. Lieut. Meyer, who is a native of Virginia, will proceed to his post at once.

The Navy League, of which Col. Robert M. Thompson is president, has arranged for a series of dances for Saturday evening, January 13, complimentary to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. The dinner will be given at the New Willard.

Mr. Oliver E. Pagan is reception hostess.

Mr. Oliver E. Pagan has cards out for a reception Wednesday afternoon, January 10, from 4 to 7 o'clock, at her residence, 1965 Biltmore street, asking her guests to meet her daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Pagan, whose marriage took place last summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Denegre have arrived in Washington for a brief sojourn at the Sheraton.

Col. Thomas Lincoln Casey, U. S. A., and Mrs. Casey entertained at dinner last evening in their apartment at Stoneleigh Court. Their guests were Col. and Mrs. Archibald Gracie, Colonel French, U. S. A., and Mrs. French, Colonel Liggett, U. S. A., and Mrs. Liggett, Mr. Joseph H. Bryan and Miss Bryan.

The Only Establishment of Its Kind in Washington

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